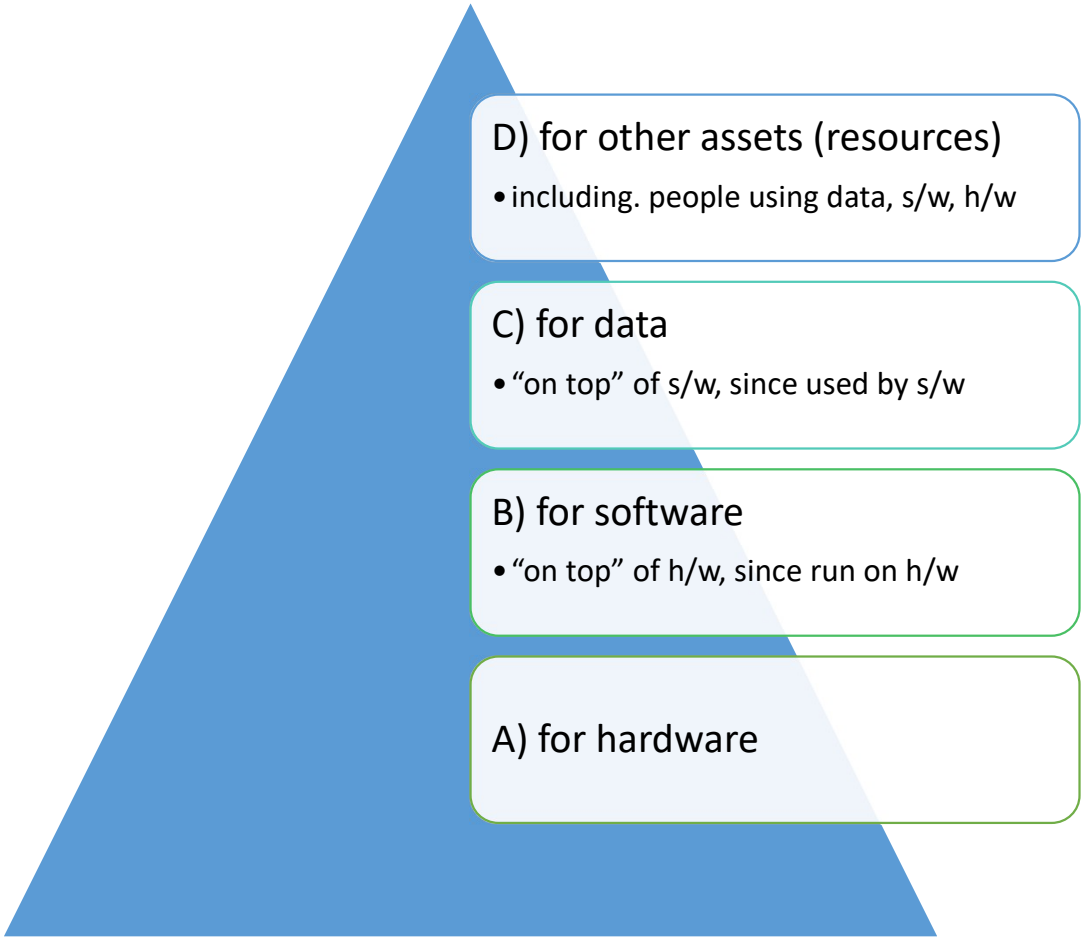
Vulnerabilities and Threats

Dr. Bhaskar Mondal


Threats are evolving
to be more and more complex

Levels of Vulnerabilities / Threats



Threats

	Availability	Confidentiality	Integrity
Hardware	Equipment is stolen or disabled, thus denying service.	An unencrypted CD-ROM or DVD is stolen.	
Software	Programs are deleted, denying access to users.	An unauthorized copy of software is made.	A working program is modified, either to cause it to fail during execution or to cause it to do some unintended task.
Data	Files are deleted, denying access to users.	An unauthorized read of data is performed. An analysis of statistical data reveals underlying data.	Existing files are modified or new files are fabricated.
Communication Lines and Networks	Messages are destroyed or deleted. Communication lines or networks are rendered unavailable.	Messages are read. The traffic pattern of messages is observed.	Messages are modified, delayed, reordered, or duplicated. False messages are fabricated.

A) Hardware Level of Vulnerabilities / Threats

- Add / remove a h/w device
  - Ex: Snooping, wiretapping

    Snoop = to look around a place secretly in order to discover things about it or the people connected with it. [Cambridge Dictionary of American English]
  - Ex: Modification, alteration of a system

- Physical attacks on h/w => need physical security: locks and guards
  - Accidental (dropped PC box) or voluntary (bombing a computer room)
  - Theft / destruction
    - Damage the machine (spilled coffe, mice, *real* bugs)
    - Steal the machine
    - “Machinicide:” Axe / hammer the machine

Physical security has three important components

access control

surveillance and

testing

Example of Snooping: Wardriving / Warwalking, Warchalking,

Wardriving/warwalking: driving/walking around with a wireless-enabled notebook looking for unsecured wireless LANs

Warchalking: using chalk markings to show the presence and vulnerabilities of wireless networks nearby

E.g., a circled "W" -- indicates a WLAN protected by Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) encryption

[Barbara Edicott-Popovsky and Deborah Frincke, CSSE592/492, U. Washington]

B) Software Level of Vulnerabilities / Threats

Software Deletion	Software Modification	Software Theft
• Easy to delete needed software by mistake • To prevent this: use *configuration management software*	• Trojan Horses, , Viruses, Logic Bombs, Trapdoors, Information Leaks (via covert channels), ...	• Unauthorized copying • via P2P, etc.

Types of Malicious Code

- **Bacterium:** A specialized *form of virus* which does not attach to a specific file. Usage obscure.
- **Logic bomb:** Malicious *[program] logic* that *activates when specified conditions are met*. Usually intended to cause denial of service or otherwise damage system resources.
- **Trapdoor:** A hidden *computer flaw known to an intruder*, or a hidden computer mechanism (usually software) installed by an intruder, *who can activate the trap door to gain access* to the computer without being blocked by security services or mechanisms.

[cf. http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2828.txt]

Types of Malicious Code

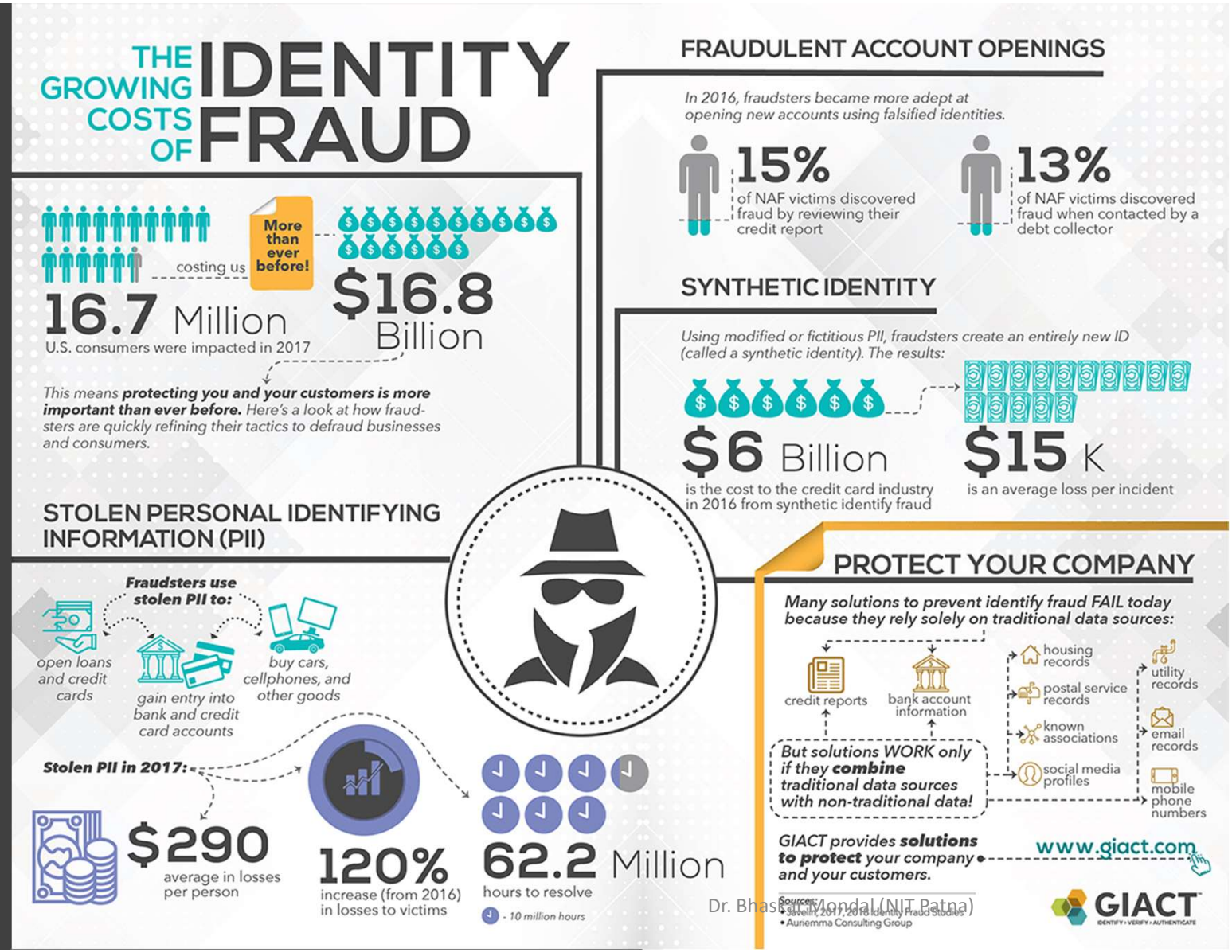
- **Trojan horse:** A computer *program that appears to have a useful function*, but also has a hidden and potentially malicious function that evades security mechanisms, sometimes by exploiting legitimate authorizations of a system entity that invokes the program.
- **Virus:** A hidden, *self-replicating section of computer software*, usually malicious logic, that *propagates by infecting* (i.e., inserting a copy of itself into and *becoming part of) another program*. A virus cannot run by itself; it requires that its host program be run to make the virus active.
- **Worm:** A computer *program* that can run independently, *can propagate a complete working version of itself* onto other hosts on a network, and may consume computer resources destructively.

- More types of malicious code exist…

[cf. http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2828.txt]

C) Data Level of Vulnerabilities / Threats

- How valuable is your data?
  - Credit card info vs. your home phone number
  - Source code
  - Visible data vs. context
    - “2345” -> Phone extension or a part of SSN?
- Adequate protection
  - Cryptography
    - Good if intractable for a long time
- Threat of Identity Theft
  - Cf. Federal Trade Commission: http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/ \



- According to Javelin Strategy & Research's, 15.4 million consumers in the U.S. were victims of identity theft in 2016 at an estimated cost of $16 billion.
- Federal Trade Commission: http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/

D) Vulnerab./Threats at Other Exposure Points

- Network vulnerabilities / threats
  - Networks multiply vulnerabilties and threats, due to:
    - their complexity => easier to make design/implem./usage mistakes
    - „bringing close" physically distant attackers
  - Esp. wireless (sub)networks

- Access vulnerabilities / threats
  - Stealing cycles, bandwidth
  - Malicious physical access
  - Denial of access to *legitimate* users

- People vulnerabilities / threats
  - Crucial weak points in security
    - too often, the *weakest* links in a security chain
  - Honest insiders subjected to skillful social engineering
  - Disgruntled employees

5. Attackers need MOM

- Method
  Skill, knowledge, tools, etc. with which to pull off an attack
- Opportunity
  Time and access to accomplish an attack
- Motive
  Reason to perform an attack

Types of Attackers

- Types of Attackers - Classification 1
  - Amateurs
    - Opportunistic attackers (use a password they found)
    - Script kiddies
  - Hackers - nonmalicious
    - In broad use beyond security community: also, malicious
  - Crackers – malicious
  - Career criminals
  - State-supported spies and information warriors

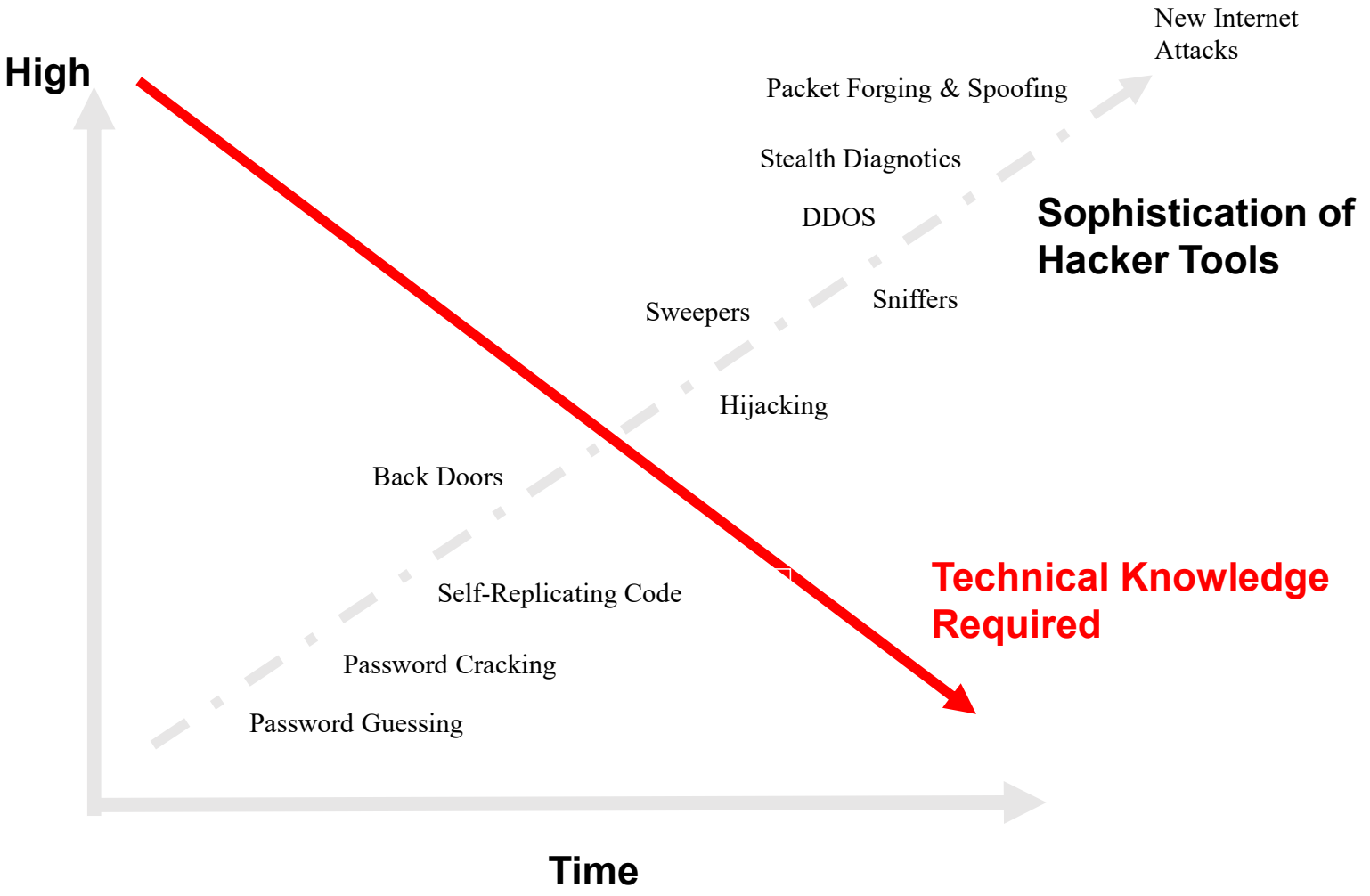
Types of Attackers

- Types of Attackers - Classification 2 (cf. before)
  - Recreational hackers / Institutional hackers
  - Organized criminals / Industrial spies / Terrorists
  - National intelligence gatherers / Info warriors

Example: Hacking As Social Protest

- Hactivism
- Electro-Hippies
- DDOS attacks on government agencies
- SPAM attacks as “retaliation”

- [Barbara Edicott-Popovsky and Deborah Frincke, CSSE592/492, U. Washington]



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React to an Exploit

Exploit = successful attack

Report to the vendor first?

Report it to the public?

What will be public relations effects if you do/do not?

Include source code / not include source code?

Etc.

“To Report or Not To Report:” Tension between Personal Privacy and Public Responsibility

- An info tech company will typically lose between ten and one hundred times more money from shaken consumer confidence than the hack attack itself represents if they decide to prosecute the case.

--Mike Rasch, VP Global Security, testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee, February 2000 reported in The Register and online testimony transcript

[Barbara Edicott-Popovsky and Deborah Frincke, CSSE592/492, U. Washington]

Further Reluctance to Report

- One common fear is that a crucial piece of equipment, like a main server, say, might be impounded for evidence by over-zealous investigators, thereby shutting the company down.
- Estimate: fewer than one in ten serious intrusions are ever reported to the authorities.
- Mike Rasch, VP Global Security, testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee, February 2000
- reported in The Register and online testimony transcript
- Barbara Edicott-Popovsky and Deborah Frincke, CSSE592/492, U. Washington]